

Rajasthan for opening such an institute in that state, offering land free of cost and a contribution of Rs 10 crore. At present the Govt. of India does intend to open any other new IITs.

**Claiming Additional Ocean Area**

2278. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to claim additional one million square KM ocean area in accordance with the United Nations Convention of Law of the Sea;

(b) If so, the details of preparations made for this purpose;

(c) Whether Government propose to develop hi-tech unmanned submersible vehicle in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government propose to claim the continental shelf in accordance with United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea.

The outer limits of the Continental Shelf have to be established by physical survey which involves the determination of the water depth and foot of slope through bathymetry and sedimentary rock thickness through seismic reflection and refraction. After delineation India should be in a position to make exclusive claim on the continental shelf. This could provide India with an area of more than 10 lakh square kilometers of continental shelf beyond the EEZ.

The Department of Ocean Development has initiated steps to delineate and present claim before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf within the prescribed time. In order to reduce cost every effort is being used to use the available data and to limit fresh survey to areas where data is not available. The existing data is being currently processed to facilitate the survey. Fresh physical survey has not yet commenced.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. A project for the development of a remotely operated unmanned submersible vehicle has been approved at an

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estimated cost of Rs. 18.28 crore. The system is to be designed with capability of operation up to 6000 metres underwater and the project duration is 3 years.

**Suburban Railway Network in Mumbai**

**2279. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh initiative to strengthen, modernise and extend the suburban railway network in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects and progress achieved so far, a project-wise, with present status?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has started functioning with effect from 29.04.2000. MRVC will execute Railway projects identified under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP). The projects to be executed by the MRVC are given in Statement-I (See below) Some of them are already in progress. List of ongoing projects in Mumbai area and their likely date of completion are also given in Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Project to be executed by Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC)*

1. 5th Line between Santa Cruz and Borivli on Western railway.
2. Additional pair of lines between Kurla and Thane
3. Additional pair of lines between Borivli and Bhayandar
4. Additional pair of lines between Bhayandar and Virar
5. Optimisation of WR including 12 car on through line
6. Optimisation of CR including 12 car on through line
7. Optimisation of Harbour line
8. DC AC conversion
9. EMU Remanufacture
10. 5th Line on Kurla-Dadar-CSTM section
11. WR 6th line between Borivli and Santacruz